

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

AUGUST 12, 2008

H.R. 6156 (McKeon) and S. 3069 (Boxer) are companion bills that would designate approximately 473,000 acres of public land in California as "Wilderness Areas." The Eastern Sierra and Northern San Gabriel Wild Heritage Act would designate two areas in the Angeles National Forest as "Wilderness Areas" as defined under Federal law. These 42,000 acres of the Angeles National Forest are located near the unincorporated County communities of Juniper Hills, Acton, Agua Dulce, Canyon Country, and Newhall.

According to the Los Angeles County Fire Department, the proposed Wilderness Areas within Los Angeles County include highly flammable areas prone to wildland fires. The Wilderness Area designation could prohibit the use of mechanized and motorized equipment such as fire engines, crew carriers, and bulldozers. This equipment, and the associated personnel, are essential to fighting wildfires. The Wilderness Area designation could also limit the ability of County personnel and local homeowners to implement fuel modification measures, such as brush clearance, which have been found to reduce the threat to life and property. Without these safety practices, hazardous conditions will remain and place our communities at greater risk.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors send a five-signature letter to the Southern California Congressional Delegation opposing S. 3069 and H.R. 6156 unless amended to include language that would ensure that the Los Angeles County Fire Department retains its ability to implement fire prevention, control, and suppression activities in designated Wilderness Areas within Los Angeles County, and instruct the County's Washington, D.C. advocates to pursue this position on the legislation.

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MDA:pno

MOTION

MOLINA _____

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